

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02608

FROM M.FALCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR, EM
SUBJECT: BURMESE NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS

1. ON FEBRUARY 17, U THA TUN, BURMESE CHARGE IN BERN AND OBSERVER AT UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND), AND I HAD CORDIAL LUNCHEON MEETING. HE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE DETAILS OF MY RECENT TRIP TO BURMA, AND RAISED ONLY ONE NEW SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE, NAMELY THE INTEREST OF THE GUB IN FINDING PHARMACEUTICAL BUYERS FOR BURMA'S MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TONS OF SEIZED OPIUM. U THA TUN NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN, ARE ALREADY SELLING SEIZED OPIUM, WHICH IS LEGAL UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL TREATIES. HE INDICATED THAT HE FELT HE COULD NOT APPROACH THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT THE CND, BUT HOPED THAT I COULD CONVEY HIS INTEREST TO THEM.

2. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT U THA TUN HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND OPEN IN TALKS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. AT OUR LUNCHEON, HE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASU-
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RE WITH THE POSITIVE TONE OF THE CND PRESENTATIONS, AND HIS MEETINGS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY MR. AASE, THE OBSERVER FROM NORWAY. ALSO INTERESTING IS THAT THE THAI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CND, GENERAL CHAVALIT, IS HOSTING AN INFORMAL, HOME COOKED THAI DINNER ON FEB 23 FOR PIO ABARRO (COLOMBO PLAN DRUG ADVISER), U THA TUN, DEA REPRESENTATIVE JACK CUSACK, GIBSON AND

MYSELF, VANDEN HEUVEL

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